

January 19, 1988

Dear

When Jason first asked us if it would be alright if he stayed in Ukarumpa to go to school while we went out to the village in January, my whole world crumbled. I walked around in a daze for a few days, scarcely seeing anything through the tears. I felt like someone had died. Of course, I always knew it would happen someday. In Papua New Guinea generally the children of translators stay in Ukarumpa for school, at a Children's Home when they start 7th grade, while their parents and younger siblings go to the village. "It's too soon", I cried to the Lord. "He's too young to be separated from us for long periods of time". Although he is beginning 7th grade, he had originally planned to take correspondance with us in the village, but he changed his mind when he realized that all his friends would be starting High School without him. As I cried out to the Lord, gradually the pain lessened. Gradually, Robert and I had the assurance that this was the right thing to do and that God could look after our son in our absence.

So here it is! School starts next week. This morning I witnessed a father headed for the village say "Good-bye" to his son, whom he will not see for almost 3 months. In 3 weeks Jeremy and I will follow Robert to the village leaving Jason here in Ukarumpa. So how can I smile at a time like this? How can I even write at a time like this? The answer is in Mark 10:29-30 and Hebrews 13:5. "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." "For he hath said, I will never leave you nor forsake you." We have claimed these promises for each of us. Separations are not easy for us. We are a very close family, but with God all things are possible. Thankyou for praying for us. The peace I sense tonight is supernatural.

Verna for the Stutzmans



Robert, Verna, Jason,  
& Jeremy Stutzman

Wycliffe Bible Translators  
Box 3068, Station B  
Calgary, AB T2M 4L6

Wycliffe Bible Translators  
Huntington Beach, CA  
92647 USA